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Elizabeth J. Coatsworth

Prince Sung bade them bring Dame Sik
Into his gay tiled tower.

“Give thy handmaid leave to bathe
And change her unworthy dress;
She will serve thee with napkin and comb,
As befits thy worshipfulness.”

She bathed and changed her robes,
In a warm slow autumn hour.
She smiled in the face of Prince Sung,
And leapt from the top of the tower.

THE GATE

The dust is thick along the road;
The fields are scorching in the sun;
My wife has ever a bitter word
To greet me when the day is done.

The neighbors rest beside the gate
But half their words are high and shrill.
My son is over-young to help;
The fields are very hard to till.

But in the dusk I raise my eyes—
The poet's words come back to me:
“In the moon there is a white jade gate
Shadowed cool by a cassia tree.”

Elizabeth J. Coatsworth